

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04796 300108Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 SSC-01 NEA-10

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R 300055Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1582

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4796

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES ALAN RENOUF TO BE NEXT
SECRETARY OF DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: CANBERRA 4394

1. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AUG 28 PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM
ANNOUNCED THAT ALAN RENOUF WOULD BECOME SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON JANUARY 2, 1974, RE-
PLACING THE INCUMBENT, SIR KEITH WALLER, WHO STILL RETIRE.
WHITLAM COMMENDED RENOUF AS QTE AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER
OF WIDE EXPERIENCE WHO WOULD FILL THE SECRETARYSHIP OF
THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WITH DISTINCTION. END QTE.

2. WHITLAM WAS ASKED WHEN A REPLACEMENT FOR RENOUF
WOULD BE NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. WHITLAM SAID HE
ANTICIPATED A REPLACEMENT WOULD BE NAMED IN DUE COURSE
BUT DID NOT INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR TIME.

3. RENOUF'S APPOINTMENT PROBABLY MEANS EARLY ASSIGNMENT
ABROAD FOR K.C.O. AHANN, NOW DEPUTY SECRETARY AND LONG
REPORTED TO BE AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE AS REPLACEMENT
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FOR WALLER. MOST SPECULATION NOW ASSUMES

SHANN WILL GO TO TOKYO, REPLACING AMBASSADOR GORDON FREETH, A FORMER LIBERAL MINISTER WHO HAS BEEN LEFT SURPRISINGLY LONG IN HIS POST BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. IT IS WIDELY ANTICIPATED THAT BRUCE GRANT, A MELBOURNE JOURNALIST, WILL SHORTLY BE NAMED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA, REPLACING SIR PATRICK SHAW, WHO IS RUMORED TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION SO FAR OF AN ONGOING ASSIGNMENT FOR SIR JAMES PLIMSOLL, PRESENT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, WHO HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON SINCE 1970 AND IS STILL ABOUT FOUR YEARS SHORT OF NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE.
GREEN

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